

When the stimulus was passed a year ago, we were promised—promised—that jobs would be saved. Instead, we've seen 3½ million people lose their jobs. We were promised unemployment wouldn't go above 8 percent, and yet it's hovering at 10 percent.

Defenders of the stimulus bill argue that the situation would be much worse if the stimulus had never taken effect. But many economists are starting to ask a different question: Could it be that the stimulus itself is adding to job losses?

Today's Wall Street Journal features an op-ed by Robert Barro, who is a professor of economics at Harvard University. He argues that the forgotten element in the stimulus debate is whether the government's spending reduced or enhanced private spending and whether public sector hiring lowered or raised private hiring. He argues that opening the spigots of government spending has actually had a negative impact on our economy.

To quote Mr. Barro: "Viewed over 5 years, the stimulus package is a way to get an extra \$600 billion of public spending at the cost of \$900 billion in private expenditure."

This is a bad deal.

UP TO THE CHALLENGE

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, over the past week, the Olympics have been a reminder of how supportive and impressive our country truly is and what it can do when we come together for a common goal. But I know that feeling doesn't always translate to the issues that are weighing heavy on people across our country.

Every day, my constituents tell me that they need jobs and job security, as well as loans for small businesses and home mortgages, and they worry about excessive government spending, our debt to foreign nations, and unconscionable Wall Street payments.

We have saved our economy from the brink, but we cannot ignore the challenges still before us. We need to continue to pair fiscal responsibility with thoughtful job creation by encouraging small business growth and supporting needed infrastructure projects. And we have to keep holding Wall Street accountable by cracking down on big bonuses and making sure that taxpayers never have to bail it out again.

After spending time with my constituents in San Diego, I know what the American people want us to focus on. We need jobs, Mr. Speaker. We need to think about the future, we need to focus on our kids and their education.

This body, Mr. Speaker, is up to the challenge, and we need to move forward.

IT ISN'T WORKING

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the

House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I've had six town meetings in the last couple of weeks, and if I were talking to the President, I would like to tell him what those people have been saying.

Number one, they don't want a government-controlled health care plan. They just don't want it. And second, they want jobs.

What we ought to be doing is cutting spending and doing what Ronald Reagan did, and that is cutting taxes across the board. People said that was the wrong thing to do then, but it created 20 years of prosperity because we knew that if people had more disposable income, they would spend it and it would create jobs and a sound economy.

Instead, what have we got? Since the Democrats have taken control of Congress 3 years ago, we've got 7½ million jobs that have been lost. And since the President signed the stimulus bill—the jobs bill—we've lost 3.3 million jobs.

"It isn't working," if I were talking to the President I would tell him. It isn't working. We should focus on what's important now—not the health care bill. We need to solve that problem. But the first thing we need to do is cut spending, cut taxes, and that will create a sound economy.

THE STIMULUS BILL HAS WORKED

(Mr. GARAMENDI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I thought I would never hear such foolishness in all my life. In fact, in California, the stimulus bill has worked. We have thousands of teachers that are in the classroom teaching. In my own district, we have a \$970 million stimulus program that is going to provide 6,000 jobs directly to drill a tunnel through the Caldecott Hills so that we can deal with the transportation program.

Thousands of people are working. It was David Stockman on national TV last week who said he no longer believes that you can move this economy forward by cutting taxes. And he was, as I recall, Mr. Reagan's budget director.

The fact of the matter is times have changed, and this call of cutting taxes and ending the stimulus is a lot of foolishness. We need jobs. We need to put people to work. That's the role of the Federal Government. And I would remind my colleagues on the other side that every industrialized nation of the world has done more to stimulate their economy than has ours, and they've been more successful.

We need a new jobs bill. We need those jobs now. And we also need to pay attention to what Mr. Stockman said.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

RECOGNIZING THE BRAVERY AND EFFORTS OF THE MEMBERS OF OPERATION UNIFIED RESPONSE

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1066) recognizing the bravery and efforts of the United States Armed Forces, local first responders, and other members of Operation Unified Response for their swift and coordinated action in light of the devastation wrought upon the nation of Haiti after a horrific 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck Port-au-Prince and surrounding cities on January 12, 2010.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1066

Whereas the recent crisis in Haiti was caused by a magnitude 7.0 earthquake, the worst the nation has experienced in over two centuries;

Whereas the disaster wrought by this earthquake has been catastrophic, destroying ports, infrastructure, hospitals, schools, homes, and businesses, making many roads impassable and incapacitating air travel, and severely hampering the efforts of disaster relief organizations;

Whereas one week after the earthquake hit, electricity was still down, running water was not available, and food supplies were quickly dwindling;

Whereas the cities of Port-Au-Prince, Jacmel, Gonaives, Petionville, and surrounding areas have been devastated, affecting an estimated 3,000,000 Haitians;

Whereas the United States Coast Guard was the first to represent the United States in Haiti after the catastrophic earthquake and was an integral part of the initial relief efforts;

Whereas the ability of the Coast Guard to act quickly and efficiently set the foundation for the quickly escalating international response;

Whereas within the first 10 days, 24 United States Navy and Coast Guard vessels, thousands of international United States Army Reserve rescue workers, over 14,000 members of the United States Armed Forces, 71 United States helicopters, and 26 Department of Health and Human Services personnel arrived or were en route to provide logistical support, secure aid distribution, and set up temporary housing;

Whereas after just one week, Joint Task Force Haiti (JTF-Haiti) had established multiple forward operating bases throughout Haiti and immediately started passing out thousands of meals and bottled water;

Whereas in just one day, JTF-Haiti was able to deliver 396,808 water bottles, 238,585 meals, and 4,900 lbs. of medical supplies to Haitian survivors;

Whereas the United States Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) and the United States